

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

D. 7749

S.1, Special Branch 37

REPORT

Date January 23, 1937.

Subject

* Fatherland Research Society

Made by D.S.I. Prokofiev

Forwarded by Philoore B.

*See also:
S. 7379 &
A. 7784

Beginning from November, 1936, notices have been appearing in local Russian newspapers from time to time announcing public lectures on political subjects held under the auspices of a Russian organization known as the "Fatherland Research Society". The lectures were held between 8.30 p.m. and 12 p.m. either at the Ukrainian Club, 640 Weihaiwei Road or at the 2nd Russian Club, 81 Chusan Road.

Two of these lectures were attended by the undersigned. On both occasions the audience did not exceed 50 persons. Admission was free and open to any member of the public. The routine adopted by the Society for their meetings is as follows:- after a lecture on a previously announced subject has been delivered, those present are invited to ask questions or to express their respective views on the subject. The function is concluded by the lecturer's address covering all points raised during the discussion.

The subject selected for the previous lectures related to the internal and external policy of the government of the U.S.S.R., the Russian Red Army, the Communist International, the Fascist movement and various political factions of Russian emigres. The general trend of the lectures may be described as definitely pro-Fascist. They were conducted in an orderly manner.

The Society in question was formed in February, 1936 by a group of members of the local branch of A.A. Vonsiatsky's "All-Russia People's Revolutionary Fascist Party" who, after a period of work under K.A. Stekloff, head of the branch, had come to the conclusion that he was utterly unfit for his post owing mainly to his lack of education. During Vonsiatsky's

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sojourn in Shanghai in March, 1936 representatives of the opposition group endeavoured to win the favour of the "Leader". However, the latter paid no attention to their representations regarding Stekloff, following which the opposition group, some 40 members strong, severed their relations with Stekloff and registered with the Russian Emigrants' Committee as a non-political body under the name of "Fatherland Research Society". They established their club at 107 Love Lane which functioned until July, 1936. The activities of the Society were then temporarily suspended and were resumed only in October of the same year.

B.M. Norlander and G.M. Fedoroff are reported to be the leading members of the Society. These individuals' antecedents as known to this office are as follows:-

Boris Michailovitch Norlander, Russian, was born in 1896 at Vladivostock. Former student of the Tomsk School of Mining Engineers he left the U.S.S.R. for China in 1922 and subsequently resided in Harbin where he was employed as a chauffeur in the garage of the Chinese Eastern Railway. In 1926 he became a Soviet citizen in order to keep his employment. However, he was discharged in 1929. In August, 1930 he arrived in Shanghai from Harbin. He registered with the Russian Emigrants' Committee and shortly afterwards obtained his present employment with the Shanghai Land Investment Company, 100 Jinkee Road, as a chauffeur and bodyguard. His last known address is 70 Wayside Road.

George Moiseyavitch Fedoroff, Russian was born on 1/8/1897 in the Transbaikal province. He is reported to have served in Admiral Kolchak's Army during the civil war in Siberia

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but later to have deserted to the "reds". According to his own statement he was a member of the Russian communist party for about ten years. During this period he graduated from a Soviet school for political instructors, following which he served in this capacity with various military units stationed in the Maritime province. In 1929 he appeared in Manchuria, declaring that he had been disappointed in the Soviet rule. He was subsequently employed as a teacher in the Three River province, Manchuria, for some time, after which he worked as a ticket inspector with the omnibus company in Mukden. Towards the end of 1932 he arrived in Shanghai and has since been residing in this city. Some time 1935 he joined the Stekloff group. He has been without a fixed employment while in Shanghai.

So far there seems to have been nothing in the activities of the Society to which an objection could be raised from the Police view point.

G. D. K. P. I.

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